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**Downey Unified School District**  
Gallegos Administration Center

11627 Brookshire Avenue, P.O. Box 7017, Downey, California 90241-7017  
(310) 904-3500, FAX: (310) 923-4690

**Board of Education**

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*Superintendent*

Edward A. Sussman, Ed.D.

**SUNSHINE PERIOD**

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the Superintendent of the Downey Unified School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Currently, we are remodeling some of our schools for Internet access and negotiating with Internet service providers. Unfortunately, we are finding that present costs are prohibitively high and prevent us from connecting every classroom and giving every student access.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications service this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Sussman, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent

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Office of Secretary

# THE LAMPHERE SCHOOLS

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## ADMINISTRATION CENTER

31201 Dorchester  
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071-1099  
Telephone: (810) 589-1990  
FAX: (810) 589-2618

SUNSHINE PERIOD

**JAMES S. McCANN**  
*Superintendent*

**GEORGE JESKO**  
*Deputy Superintendent*

**THOMAS M. TADAJEWSKI**  
*Associate Superintendent for Business*

**T.C. ROEKL**  
*Director of Curriculum & Instruction*

April 25, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket NO. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am the School Board Treasurer from The Lamphere Schools and I would like to thank you for your dedication to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

  
Harry D. Gibson, II.  
School Board Treasurer

HDG:jo

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary



MAINE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

PRESIDENT  
James A. Banks, Sr.  
Portland

1ST VICE PRESIDENT  
Margaret R. Rotundo  
Lewiston

2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
Rhonda F. Bowden  
SAD #56 (Searsport)

PAST PRESIDENT  
Terry D. McCabe  
Bremen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Dale A. Douglass

MAINE COUNCIL OF  
SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEYS

Donald A. Kopp, Esq.  
Chair

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am President of the Maine School Boards Association, and represent over 1800 school board members in Maine. I want to thank you for your consideration in ensuring that all schools have affordable access to the Internet and are provided with opportunities for distance-learning.

In a rural state like Maine these technological opportunities provide an important link towards educational equity. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest or the most rural schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide for distance-learning opportunities. The approval of this Act will address the needs of all our schools, and more importantly, the plan will ensure direct services to the classrooms where students learn. The inclusion of the internal classroom connections discounts is imperative to provide equitable educational opportunities for students, regardless of where their family resides.

This plan is essential for preparing our students for their future, and I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

  
James A. Banks, Sr.  
President

CC: Dale A. Douglass, Executive Director  
MSBA Board of Directors

F:\Data\FCC



Member of THE MAINE LEADERSHIP CONSORTIUM

49 COMMUNITY DRIVE • AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9405 • 207-622-3473

Shirley Martin  
P O Box 115  
Milan, GA 31060

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MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D. C. 20054

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in support of meaningful discount on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act – through its Universal Service Fund provisions – mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discount for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

*Shirley Martin*

Lamar M. Cooper  
Route 1 Box 170-A  
McRae, Ga 31055

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MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D. C. 20054

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Sincerely,

*Lamar Cooper*

Brenda E Fields  
Strozier Street  
McRae, GA 31055

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SUNSHINE PERIOD

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D. C. 20054

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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Sincerely,

*Brenda Fields*

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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Iris G. Myles  
619 E Bruce Street  
McRae, Ga 31055

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D. C. 20054

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

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Sincerely,

*Iris G. Myles*

Robert E. Herndon  
1111 Honeysuckle Lane  
McRae, Ga 31055

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D. C. 20054

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Sincerely,

*Robert E. Herndon*



**SUNSHINE PERIOD**

Larry Wells  
208 Andrews Street  
McRae, GA 31055

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**MAY 8 1997**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D. C. 20054

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Sincerely,

*Larry Wells*

Carol Y Banks  
815 Third Avenue  
McRae, GA 31055

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D. C. 20054

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Sincerely,

*Carol Banks*



M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

## State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Baton Rouge

70804-9004

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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POST OFFICE BOX 94004  
(504) 342-7015

May 1, 1997

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20054

RE: Exparte Correspondence  
CC Docket 96-45 Universal Service

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing you to express concern for the rural telephone customers in the state of Louisiana. I understand that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires "sufficient" high cost support to ensure "just, reasonable and affordable rates" and "reasonably comparable" rates and services for rural and urban customers and nationwide information access. However, it is my understanding that a joint board of federal and state regulators has recommended that the FCC adopt a policy for rural telephone companies that would possibly harm economic development in the rural and high cost areas of Louisiana.

On behalf of the state of Louisiana, I am writing to request that you vote to implement a high cost bond that ensures high quality telephone service to rural subscribers at affordable rates.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

jdd

**Board of Directors**

Marc Abrams  
Judy Chambers  
Arlene Collins  
Jean Haliski  
Donna Jordan  
Sy Kornbrodt  
Patricia Swanson

**Advisors**

Marcia Douglas  
Janice Gratton



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**SUNSHINE PERIOD**

**Superintendent**

Edward L. Schmitt

**Deputy Superintendent**

Jerry W. Shiveley

# Multnomah Education Service District

April 28, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 844  
Washington DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan are very important to this Agency and the children we serve.

Technology services have been and remain one of our major regional priorities for this Board and our component school districts. The regional advantage in leveraging and aggregating resources is significant. This priority is, however, difficult to achieve in an era of declining operational revenues. Many, many times we are forced to make choices between retaining classroom teachers and the acquisition of instructional technology. Our children deserve both!

The Federal-State Joint Board discount plan provides significant and required funds for the acquisition of the needed classroom access to technology resources on the "information highway".

I urge you and your fellow Commission Members to support the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations.

Sincerely,

*Marc Abrams* *ks*

Marc Abrams, Chairman  
Board of Education

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Office of Secretary